

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ALICE HOEPPNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career has come to an end. Mrs. Alice Hoeppner, of Lexington, MO, retired on December 31, 2005, from her position as deputy county clerk for Lafayette County.

Mrs. Hoeppner first entered public service while she was attending Lexington High School, Lexington, MO. On July 12, 1948, she began working for the probate court in the Lafayette County Courthouse. Later she joined the County Clerk's office on a part-time basis.

In 1950, Alice married Bennie Hoeppner, and in 1951, she resigned her job to raise her children, Patricia, Steve and Tony.

In September 1974, then-Lafayette County Clerk Edgar Oetting asked her to work for him full-time as the deputy county clerk. She remained full-time, also serving under County Clerk Linda Nolting and under the current County Clerk, Linda Niendick.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Alice Hoeppner has dedicated herself to serving Lafayette County. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing her all the best as she moves on to the next step in her life.

HONORING SERGEANT JEREMIAH BOEHMER

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SGT Jeremiah Boehmer, who died February 5, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Every Member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SGT Jeremiah Boehmer lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Jeremiah's compassion and service. Jeremiah, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SGT Jeremiah

Boehmer. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO ODELL BARRY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Coloradan who has made a substantial impact on our State while serving as a role model for achievement in the African-American community. I am proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of Mr. Odell Barry and to congratulate him on his recent election to the Ford-Warren Library's "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame. It is a well-bestowed honor, and befitting the life and works of a wonderful man.

Originally from Ohio, Odell Barry began his Colorado experience in a way that ensures the admiration and affection of many of our residents—as a Denver Bronco. Playing in 1964 and 1965, he still holds a place in the Broncos' record books with the second-most kickoff return yards in a season. Mr. Barry's athletic accomplishments are the envy of many, and I am sure he will not mind my saying that I am old enough to recall them.

After his retirement from professional football, Odell involved himself heavily in the civic affairs of Northglenn, CO, a community in my district. He built a successful business with his wife, Glenda, and raised his family. These years were a preamble to his historic 1980 election as the first African-American mayor of Northglenn and the second African-American mayor of a major metropolitan city—after Mayor Penfield Tate of Boulder—in Colorado. As mayor of Northglenn, Odell Barry helped to steer the city through major commercial and economic growth at a difficult time in the history of Colorado's economy. His open and warm-hearted style won many admirers and he was particularly committed to improving recreational opportunities for young people. He was instrumental in advocating transportation improvements, including construction of the new Denver International Airport.

Odell was the first African-American citizen to become a charter member of Rotary International, the first African-American citizen to become president of the Colorado Civil Defense Association, the chair of the Colorado Economic Development Commission, and a crucial advocate for building, and bringing a professional baseball team, the Colorado Rockies, to Colorado.

I have no doubt that Odell and Glenda will continue to accomplish great things, serving as role models for Americans of all ages and colors. In recognition of his latest achievement and for his already secure place in Colorado history, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Odell Barry and congratulating him on becoming the newest addition to the Ford-Warren Library's esteemed "Blacks in Colorado" Hall of Fame.

RECALLING THE TRAGIC DAY OF FEBRUARY 24, 1996

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the Cuban people commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of Cuba. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 111 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez, Maceo, Banderas, and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date ten years ago. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ordered the murder of the men and women who were going to fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque would also announce that the planes had been shot down over Cuban waters.

We all know that Pablo Morales, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Peña, and Carlos Costa were brutally murdered on February 24, 1996. I am sure that those four martyrs of freedom, peace, and patriotism will be duly memorialized in the democratic Cuba of tomorrow, as they are in South Florida today.

The intervention of destiny saved the third Brothers to the Rescue plane which flew on February 24, 1996. That intervention of the imponderable made it possible for the world and for history to know that the planes were shot down over international waters, while engaged in a peaceful and humanitarian mission.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember the four martyrs from the Brothers to the Rescue, let us remember all the political prisoners, and let us remember the countless men and women who have given their best years, and often their lives, for the freedom of Cuba. My colleagues, this February 24th, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom and liberty for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

all who languish in the darkness of totalitarianism. My Colleagues, we must recommit ourselves to hastening the dawn of a free and democratic Cuba.

IN MEMORY OF THE MOST REVEREND BISHOP MICHAEL F. MCAULIFFE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of the Most Reverend Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, MO.

McAuliffe was born on November 22, 1920, in Kansas City, Kansas, son of John and Bridget McAuliffe. His education included the St. John High School Seminary in Kansas City, St. Louis' Preparatory Seminary and the Theological College of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. On May 31, 1945, he was ordained a priest. In 1954, he earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology.

He served many parishes and education assignments. One of these assignments was superintendent of the diocesan schools in the Kansas City area. On July 2, 1969, Pope Paul VI appointed McAuliffe as the second Bishop of Jefferson City. He served in this position for 28 years. During his tenure, he had an active interest in parochial education. Approximately 13 years ago, he started the Diocesan Excellence in Education Fund.

McAuliffe retired in 1995, at age 75, but remained the bishop until Pope John Paul II appointed the current bishop in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, the Most Reverend Bishop Michael McAuliffe was a valuable leader in both the church and his community. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALLEN KOKESH, JR.

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SPC Allen Kokesh Jr., who died February 7, 2006, from wounds suffered while serving in Iraq.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SPC Allen Kokesh Jr., lived that commitment to our Country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Allen's compassion and service. Allen, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the

State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our Country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SPC Allen Kokesh Jr. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO CAL FRAZIER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mr. Cal Frazier, a great Coloradan who passed away on January 30, 2006, at his home in Lakewood, CO. He will be missed by friends and loved ones, and his leadership in civic affairs and education will be missed as well.

Orphaned as a teenager, Cal Frazier studied at Palmer High School in Colorado Springs and earned a scholarship to the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. There he met his future wife, Jean H. Frazier, and upon graduation became an elementary school teacher. This was the beginning of a long and illustrious career in the education system. While still in Washington, Cal taught high school, became a principal, a special education director, and earned his masters and doctoral degrees in education.

After his stint in Washington, Colorado was fortunate to have him back. Cal began to teach in yet another capacity at the University of Colorado-Boulder, giving him experience in virtually all levels of our education system. In 1973, with all of his hard-earned expertise and credibility, he was appointed to serve as the commissioner of the Colorado Department of Education, beginning a 15-year term of service. Even after his official retirement, Cal continued to serve on boards and commissions devoting his life toward improving the education system.

Those who knew Cal Frazier have fond memories of his remarkable impact on the education system. He was a role model and a leader on many levels. Beyond his many accomplishments in life, Cal Frazier taught Coloradans through his deeds as well as his words. He will be remembered as someone who did not need to be in the front of a classroom to be a teacher.

I had the opportunity to work with Cal briefly on the "Education to Elevate Colorado's Economy (E3) Summit" last fall. I was struck immediately by his thoughtfulness, wisdom and humor. Given the critical importance of addressing the needs of our Colorado education community, I was heartened to know that people like Cal were at the helm.

If the measure of a life well-led is the impact that a person has on others, then Cal's impact is broad and deep. We all owe him a debt of gratitude and respect, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering a life of service while expressing our deepest sympathies for his family's loss.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN SENDS
NEW YEAR GREETINGS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last month the Council of Khalistan sent out New Year's greetings to the Sikh Nation. In the letter the Council noted that the flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab, Khalistan, despite India's ongoing effort to stamp out the freedom movement. In both January and June of 2005, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of freedom Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, and raising the Khalistani flag. When did making speeches and hoisting a flag become crimes in a democracy?

The letter took note of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's apology to the Sikh Nation for the massacres of November 1984 that killed over 20,000 Sikhs. This clearly admits India's culpability for this horrible massacre. While that apology is a positive step and we applaud it, it was not accompanied by any compensation to the victims' families. Nor was it accompanied by an apology for the military attack on the Golden Temple or any other Indian government atrocity against the Sikhs. Nevertheless, it shows India's awareness of the rising tide of freedom in Punjab, Khalistan.

Last month, the Indian government bulldozed the homes of Sikh farmers in Uttaranchal Pradesh, farms they had worked all their lives for, and expelled them from the state. This is the height of discrimination against the Sikhs. No Sikhs are allowed to own land in Rajasthan and in Himachal Pradesh, but outsiders are allowed to buy land in Punjab. The government encourages Hindus to buy land in Punjab. Is this secularism in action? Is this democracy at work?

Mr. Speaker, these are just the latest acts against the legitimate freedom movement in Punjab, Khalistan. The repression has been ongoing. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights groups. In addition, the Movement Against State Repression, MASR—an organization that should be unnecessary in a democratic state—reported in one of its studies that the Indian government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. Some have been held since 1984! These are in addition to tens of thousands of other political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. And the Indian government has killed over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. And the repression continues, not only in Punjab, Khalistan, but throughout the country.

We can and must do something about it. We can stop our aid and trade with India until it respects full human rights for all people living within its borders. And we can and should declare our support for self-determination in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, as promised to the UN in 1948, in Nagalim, and wherever the people are seeking freedom. India claims to be democratic and the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. Democracies also respect the human rights of the minority.

Why is India afraid to put this simple question to a free and fair vote? Where is its commitment to democratic principles, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's open letter in the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, January 23, 2006.

MAY GURU BLESS THE KHALSA PANTH IN 2006
WITH FREEDOM, HAPPINESS, UNITY, AND
PROSPERITY

DEAR KHALSA JI: Waheguru Ji Ka
Khalisa, Waherguru Ji Ki Fateh!

Happy New Year to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. May 2006 be your best year ever. I wish you health, joy, and prosperity in the new year.

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. The arrests of Sikh activists, mostly from Dal Khalsa, last January and again in June merely for raising the Khalistani flag and making pro-Khalistan speeches shows that the movement to free our homeland is on the rise. It has gotten the attention of the world.

The Indian government is reacting to the rising tide of freedom for the Sikh Nation. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh apologized to the Sikh Nation for the Delhi massacres of November 1984 that killed over 20,000 Sikhs. It is good that he apologized and it clearly shows India's responsibility, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where are the apologies for the golden Temple attack and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families?

Earlier this month, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. We must redouble our efforts to free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation. This is a direct challenge to the Sikh leadership, irrespective of their party affiliation.

Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. But we should only support sincere, dedicated, honest leaders. We must be careful if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2006 as we did in 2005.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption. Now Badal and his son have accused Chief Minister Amarinder Singh of being tied in with Khalistanis. If this were

true, what would be wrong with it? The Akali leaders also walked out when I predicted at a seminar around the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday that Khalistan will soon be free, a prediction that was greeted with multiple enthusiastic shouts of "Khalistan Zindabad." How will these Akalis, including Badal and his son, account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Badal and his son are not Sikhs.

The corruption of the Badal government was just part of a pattern of corruption in India. Jobs are sold, legislative seats are rigged, judges preside over cases being tried by their family members, and so many other forms of corruption occur. As Dr. M.S. Rahi has pointed out in his excellent new paper on the corruption, this kind of corruption leads to the kind of atrocities that have unfortunately become so routine in India.

The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 18 years we have led this fight while others were trying to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Yet Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 25 years. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! More than a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Even now, the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, has not been handed over to Punjab, but remains a Union Territory. How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things?

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Let us work to make certain that 2006 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making sure it is the year that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

FREEDOM FOR RENE GÓMEZ
MANZANO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Rene Gómez Manzano, a heroic political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gómez Manzano is a lawyer and a distinguished member of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. Along with fellow Cuban patriots Martha Beatriz Roque and Felix Bonne Carcasses, he is a leader of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society. The Assembly is an umbrella organization of over 300 groups of Cubans who have asserted their independence from the totalitarian state. On May 20, 2005, the Assembly carried out a meeting of approximately 200 Cubans who publicly demonstrated their rejection of totalitarianism and their support for democracy and the rule of law in Havana. Mr. Gómez Manzano was one of the primary architects of that historic, admirable accomplishment. Accordingly, he has been the constant target of Castro's machinery of repression. He has been harassed by the tyrant's thugs and, now, unjustly incarcerated as a political prisoner for his peaceful activities.

Almost a decade earlier, in 1997, after co-authoring the important and historic work "La Patria es de Todos"—"The Homeland Belongs to All"—with Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcasses and another Cuban patriot, Vladimiro Roca, Mr. Gómez Manzano was arrested by the dictatorship and sentenced to various years in the gulag. During his unjust imprisonment, and after being released, Mr. Gómez Manzano never wavered in his commitment to bring freedom, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people. Unfortunately, in an additional act of extreme and despicable repression by the dictatorship, Mr. Gómez Manzano, along with dozens of others, was arrested once again on July 22, 2005, before he could attend a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana to protest the resumption of the European Union's policy of so-called engagement with the terrorist regime in Havana.

I have never had the honor of personally meeting Mr. Gómez Manzano, but I can certainly say that I know him quite well. I have spoken to him by telephone during various congressional hearings and other public events dedicated to highlighting the suffering and oppression of the Cuban people. He is a great patriot, a man of the law, a man of peace, and an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Gómez Manzano languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment of a man of peace like Mr. Gómez Manzano by a demented and murderous tyrant for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must never forget those who are locked in gulags because of their desire for freedom for their countries. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rene Gómez Manzano and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO FRED SIEMS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a long and exceptionally distinguished career in public service has come to a close. Mr. Fred Siems has retired from his position as Blue Springs city administrator.

In 1978, Siems became the first professional city administrator in Blue Springs. He served in this position for 27 years, overseeing the city's growth from approximately 10,000 to almost 52,000 people. He retired at the end of December 2005 as Missouri's longest-serving city administrator in one city.

During his tenure, he was honored with the Mid-America Regional Council leadership award. The International City/County Management Association recognized him as its outstanding city administrator.

Mr. Fred Siems has distinguished himself as a community leader. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Fred and his family all the best in the days to come.

HONORING SPECIALIST PATRICK
HERRIED**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of SPC Patrick Herried, who died February 6, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Every member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, SPC Patrick Herried lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Patrick's compassion and service. Patrick, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the military continues to inspire all those who knew him and many who did not. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of SPC Patrick Herried. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

HONORING CHICAGO'S 2006 WINTER
OLYMPIANS**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Chicago area ath-

letes competing this month in the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

The Olympic Games bring the world together in celebration of the best that every nation has to offer. I am proud that five Chicagoans are joining the world's best at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Chris Chelios is serving as the captain of the men's hockey team for the third consecutive Olympics. At 44 years old, Chelios is the oldest Olympic hockey player since 1928, but is still expected to be a driving force for the Americans. After attending Mount Carmel High School, Chelios represented his hometown as a blueliner for the Blackhawks throughout most of the 1990s.

Nineteen-year-old Northwestern University student Margaret Crowley has several opportunities to represent her country in speed skating, competing in the 3,000 meter and Team Pursuit events. She was the U.S. junior champion in 2004 and the runner-up in 2005. In addition to her extensive training schedule, Crowley has found the time to study economics, French and literature.

Shani Davis is the first African-American to qualify for the U.S. Olympic speed skating team. Shani grew up on Chicago's South Side and was inspired by fellow Illinois native Bonnie Blair. Davis also competed in the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and was the 2005 World All-Around Speedskating Champion.

Ben Agosto is a native Chicagoan who has paired with Tanith Belbin to compete in ice dancing in Turin. They are favored to win a medal, which would be only the second ever for an American team, and the first in 30 years. The pair combines salsa, rumba and cha cha as part of their original dance routines on the ice.

Chicago native Evan Lysacek is competing in his first Games as a figure skater. After graduating from Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, he overcame a serious hip injury to land a spot on the U.S. team headed to Turin.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor these five Olympians that are representing the U.S. in Turin. On behalf of my fellow Chicagoans and Americans, I wish these elite athletes and all of their teammates the best of luck in their respective events, and I thank them for representing the United States at the 2006 Winter Olympics.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED IN
THE UNITED STATES COLORED
TROOPS DURING THE CIVIL WAR**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I make remarks today to honor 2000 heroic men—men who fought for freedom and justice and a stronger, united America. These men made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They gave their lives so that their children and grandchildren and generations to come would know an America where hopes for a better life would be a dream for all to share.

The 2000 men I honor today were members of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. They are buried at the rear of the Nashville National Cemetery, their service and their sacrifice too often overlooked by visitors to that hallowed ground.

This weekend, Tennessee will take an important step in saluting, and thanking, African-American soldiers for their important service during the Civil War. Tennessee will become the first state in the U.S. to erect a statue to recognize the bravery of these 2000 men, and all of the 180,000 African-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The statue is more than an historic monument. It will be a permanent and powerful reminder for all Americans and the world that the strength of our great Nation comes from the belief laid down by our founding fathers that "all men are created equal. . . ."

It was a desire to transform that belief into reality that these men took up arms. They believed in a new vision of America and they knew it was an America worth fighting for. And now, during Black History Month, we come together to unveil this statue and to offer the praise and appreciation that has been so long overdue.

The life-size bronze is the result of years of hard work on the part of many. The African American Cultural Alliance and its founder and executive director, Kwame Leo Lillard, led this effort. But many individuals and organizations throughout the community also dedicated themselves to the task. Creative Artists of Tennessee, the Black Veterans Association, the 13th U.S.C.T. Regiment, the Tennessee Historical Commission, Tennessee State University Department of History, and One Point Solutions, along with federal, state and local governments have all been involved in this campaign.

I am proud and honored that Nashville will be home to this important memorial to all those who served in the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Unlike the battle in so many other cities, the Battle of Nashville did not take place on one battlefield. It was fought in the city itself and at locations scattered around the edges of town. No portion of the city has been preserved as a park to commemorate those who fought and died in this battle. They are quietly honored at the Nashville National Cemetery. And now, with the addition of this statue, all of the troops who sacrificed so much to preserve our great Nation, will receive the special recognition they deserve.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CON-
TRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF
POLICE COMMANDER OF THE EL
CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT
KENNETH S. MOSBY**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker rise to recognize the exceptional value of Commander Kenneth S. Mosby's long and notable career. Kenneth has served Contra Costa County and the City of El Cerrito with great distinction and in retiring from his position as a Police Commander brings to close a career with local Law Enforcement Agencies Department that spans 29 years.

Kenneth S. Mosby began his law enforcement career with the Richmond Unified School District as a security officer in 1976. Four years later Kenneth joined the El Cerrito police

department where he has served with distinction. During his tenure, he married Cheryl and together they are raising their son, Kevin.

While with the El Cerrito Police Department Kenneth served in a number of different roles. He worked as a Major Crime Scene Evidence Technician; a Field Training Officer and a Forensic Detective. He also served as a Narcotics/Intelligence Officer where he notably participated in the state wide marijuana eradication programs in the summers of 1984 and 1985. Having performed these duties with great technical competence, efficiency and distinction, Kenneth was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1991 and to Detective Sergeant in 1995.

After his many years of dedicated service, Kenneth was promoted to the rank of Commander in 1997. As Police Commander of the El Cerrito Police Department, Kenneth has served his community with great dedication and pride and upon the occasion of his retirement is deserving of special recognition and the highest commendation.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride and pleasure in drawing special public attention to Commander Kenneth S. Mosby and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

EMERGENCY FUNDING IN H.R. 4745

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, section 402 of House Concurrent Resolution 95, the congressional budget resolution for fiscal year 2006, requires a statement to be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD explaining how the funding contained in H.R. 4745, (making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program, which will be considered in the House today, meets the criteria of emergency funding specified in such section.

Funding for the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program is provided in response to essential, urgent, and compelling needs resulting from the extreme natural disasters that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico region in calendar year 2005. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma resulted in the most expensive natural disasters ever to strike the U.S., and their scope and cost were completely unforeseen. The emergency funds provided in H.R. 4745 are justified under the criteria outlined in H. Con. Res. 95.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed Roll Call votes No. 8 and No. 9. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 8 and "aye" on Roll Call vote No. 9.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on February 14, 2006 during Rollcall votes No. 8 and No. 9 during the second session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was for H. Con. Res. 322—Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our servicemen and women of our armed forces and their families, the second was S. 1989—Holly A. Charette Post Office Designation Act.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on these rollcall votes.

IN SUPPORT OF THE CANINE VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Canine Volunteer Protection Act of 2006. I do so because I am an advocate of protecting our service animals while they perform their duties.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there were reports of first responders having difficulty working with local authorities. In some instances their dogs were threatened and their handlers were harassed as these first responders bravely carried out their duties. It was because of these reports, Mr. Speaker, that a constituent of mine, Ms. Amy Stegal of Stafford Springs, CT, contacted me and asked that we provide protection for these invaluable canine rescuers.

Ms. Stegal is affiliated with Connecticut Canine Search and Rescue, CCSAR. This important organization was incorporated in 1994 as a volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a professional team response to all emergency service agency requests for lost, missing or drowned persons; advancing education in search and rescue procedures; and offering support for families of lost and missing persons.

Mr. Speaker, these dogs and their handlers heroically volunteer their time and expertise in times of natural disaster, yet they are not protected by Federal law. The Canine Volunteer Protection Act would give members of volunteer canine search and rescue teams, such as CCSAR members, the same protections current law gives other law enforcement animals. This includes both a monetary fine and/or imprisonment of those persons who willfully and maliciously harm any search and rescue dog.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure to protect search and rescue teams as they selflessly perform their rescue missions. I thank Ms. Stegal of Stafford Springs for bringing this important issue to my attention.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 7: I would have voted in favor of the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297, the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act. I strongly support the extension of the "patch" for the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT, which helps middle income taxpayers who are being unfairly drawn into paying higher taxes.

Rollcall Vote 6: I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 657, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools.

Rollcall Vote 5: I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 670, congratulating the National Football League champion Pittsburgh Steelers for winning Super Bowl XL.

Had I been present for the votes on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall Vote 4: I would have voted against H. Res. 653, providing for consideration of the budget reconciliation bill for fiscal year 2006, S. 1932. I strongly oppose the Republican budget reconciliation.

Rollcall Vote 3: I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 648, to eliminate floor privileges and access to Member exercise facilities for registered lobbyists who are former Members of officers of the House.

Rollcall Vote 2: I would have voted against the ruling of the chair on the McDermott point of order stating that the provisions of H. Res. 653 violate the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 by imposing an unfunded mandate.

TRIBUTE TO SHEPARD KING

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Shepard King, a remarkable man with tremendous talent, energy and generosity whose many contributions to our entire South Florida community comprise an enduring and lasting legacy that will be with us for many years to come.

Shepard King was a doer and an achiever. He was co-chair of the National Tax, Trusts & Estates Practice at the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, one of Florida's most successful and influential firms. He served as a President of the Miami Chapter of the American Jewish Committee, AJC, and strongly believed in its mission. Additionally, Shep served as a Director of the Miami-Dade County Bar Association; an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Masters in Taxation Program of the UM School of Law; a Member of the American College of Tax Counsel; the Executive Council, Tax Section of The Florida Bar; the Law Revision Council of Florida; the Board of Directors, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; co-founder, the Family Business Institute at Florida International University and Hands Across the Campus; and Chairman, South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Through the work of Ms. Bernita M. King, Mr. Russell L. King and the American Jewish Committee, however, Shephard King's legacy will be alive and well because of the Shep King Endowment Fund, which was established in 2004, one year after Shep King passed away. Throughout his life, he had a profound appreciation for the insights and opportunities that his education had provided him, and he always encouraged his own children and others to get as much education as possible.

Because he believed so strongly in the power of education, the Shep King Endowment Fund is dedicated to providing scholarships to underprivileged children in South Florida. The Endowment aims to identify recipients while they are still in elementary school and to provide hands-on guidance, as well as financial support, to aid children and offset private school educational expenses during junior high school, high school and college. Although the scholarship is established through the United Jewish Philanthropies, the recipients are students of any race, religion, or ethnicity. Currently, the first Shep King Scholar is studying at a private junior high school in Miami, and an additional student is anticipated to be added this fall.

My hope is that over the years, the Shep King Endowment Fund can bring the opportunities that come through education to many others and that Shep's legacy will continue to live on through their accomplishments.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
DICK GODDARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend, Dick Goddard, for his life-long activism and advocacy in promoting and protecting the welfare of animals, especially humankind's best friends, our dogs and cats.

Mr. Goddard has served as WJW TV8's, FOX8 News, Chief Meteorologist for 40 years. His interesting intellectual insights and quick wit reflect in every forecast and have endeared him to thousands of daily, faithful viewers. For decades, Mr. Goddard has channeled his celebrity profile, both, on and off camera, to promote and support programs that benefit the animal companions of our community. From neuter and spay programs, to featuring dog and cat adoptions twice weekly during the 6 o'clock news broadcast, Mr. Goddard's unwavering and compassionate focus has provided safe and secure homes for hundreds of unwanted pets.

Mr. Goddard has built strong connections with area animal shelters and volunteers his time and talents in raising tens of thousands of dollars for more than 60 animal welfare organizations throughout Ohio. He regularly attends and promotes animal welfare events and is the point person in our community regarding animal-related concerns. Mr. Goddard's commitment and compassion is equaled and supported by many volunteers, including Patti Fisher and Mary Pennington, who've worked behind-the-scenes with Mr. Goddard for nearly 20 years.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Dick Goddard,

whose personal and professional integrity, affable nature, and deep concern for our community lends a voice of protection, rescue, warmth and shelter for stray and abandoned dogs and cats throughout our region. I also wish my friend a very happy birthday and a lifelong forecast of peace, health and happiness, under blue and sunny skies.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 18TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO
KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVE-
MENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership, and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable defense force, and an independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

HONORING VINCE YOUNG AND HIS
2005 ROSE BOWL VICTORY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Vince Young on leading the University of Texas Longhorns to their 2005 Rose Bowl Victory.

Vince is a fellow Houstonian who has successfully overcome numerous obstacles to the success that he now enjoys. As a young child, he was hurt in a horrible accident that left his body battered and bruised. Vince worked tirelessly to recuperate with a tenacity not often demonstrated by 7-seven-year old children and, with the help of his mother and his grandmother, he recovered. Under the guidance of his family, Vince also fought his way through the difficulties and temptations that so many young people must face in today's world.

As a student at James Madison High School in Houston, Vince demonstrated a natural athletic prowess. His stellar performance as a high school quarterback earned him the attention of universities nationwide. Vince chose to attend the University of Texas at Austin, an institution known for academic excellence and a

tradition of athletic achievement. There, he triumphed as a student-athlete. In 2003, he became the starting quarterback for the Longhorns and began a college football career that was certainly meant for the record books. As a starter, Vince garnered the best win record in the University of Texas' history, which consists of 29 wins and only 2 losses, the sixth best winning percentage in NCAA history.

During the 2005 season, Vince's strength, accuracy, agility, and speed led the Longhorns to an undefeated season and a Big 12 Championship. His outstanding performance earned him nationwide accolades and culminated in a stunning victory over the USC Trojans at the 2005 NCAA Championship game. Under Vince's leadership, the talented team earned the University of Texas its first national title since 1970.

Vince's trademark is his versatility, which is expressed both on and off the football field. Throughout his college career, he was heavily involved in community service activities. His particular interest in assisting youth has been demonstrated through his mentorship of elementary and middle school students, his performance as a student-teacher and mentor for middle school math and science students through the LEAP, Learn, Enjoy and Play, Program, and his volunteer activities at the Austin YMCA. Vince has also served as a speaker at several youth organizations in Austin and is active in community service projects through his church.

In a State where football players at all levels are often treated as royalty and who, at times, come to expect indulgences that others are denied, Vince has consistently demonstrated a depth of character to which all young people should aspire. He is a charismatic leader who has set a tremendous example for all of us and who has shown that hard-work, dedication, and heart are a recipe for success.

I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Vince for his victorious Rose Bowl performance. But more importantly, I would like to express my thanks to him for representing the city of Houston with such class. I wish him continued success as he grows both as a football player and a man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARLOTTA
WALLS LANIER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlotta Walls LaNier for her contributions to the American human rights movement and her continued service as a role model and educator for the youth of this country.

Carlotta is truly a woman of living history. She was born on December 18, 1942, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was one of the nine African American teenagers who integrated Little Rock Arkansas' Central High School in 1957, following the U.S. Supreme Courts' ruling in Brown v. Board of Education. Implementing such a ruling required a presidential order to provide troops to protect Carlotta and the other students breaking through the racial barrier. Despite threats on her and her family's life, and countless other incidents of intimidation and prejudice, Carlotta graduated in 1960.

History would later call these brave Americans the "Little Rock Nine."

Inspired by Rosa Parks, Carlotta had the desire to get the best education available, Carlotta enrolled at Michigan State University. She attended Michigan State for 2 years before moving with her family to Denver. In 1968, she earned a B.S. from Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado) and began working at the YWCA as a program administrator for teens.

Carlotta was awarded the prestigious Spingarn Medal by the NAACP in 1958. She has been a member of the Colorado Aids Project, Jack and Jill of America, the Urban League and the NAACP, as well as the president of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, a scholarship organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for African Americans. She has also served as a trustee for the Iliff School of Theology. In 1999 at the White House, members of Congress and the President bestowed upon Carlotta and the other members of the Little Rock Nine the nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, for their sacrifice and contribution to the cause of equality.

Mr. Speaker, Carlotta Wells LaNier continues to spread her influence by speaking today, to the students of Cornerstone Christian Academy in Henderson, Nevada, as part of a Black History Month Celebration. I am honored to recognize this great woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE DELAWARE RIVER POWER SQUADRON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Delaware River Power Squadron on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

Delaware River Power Squadron is dedicated to boating safety through education and civic activities in several locations in Philadelphia while also serving the boating public throughout southern Pennsylvania, the Delaware River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

First organized in 1915, it was not until May of 1916 that the Delaware River Power Squadron was formally recognized as a unit. Since then members of the Delaware River Power Squadron have formed an additional 20 squadrons in the District 5 region of United States Power Squadrons including eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Delaware River Power Squadron has worked with the armed forces of the United States in time of war to provide training materials and patrol teams, and continues to work in partnership with government agencies such as the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Ocean Service, the National Safe Boating Council, and others to provide safe boating education, reliable waterway charts, vessel safety examinations, environmental support, and homeland security.

Delaware River Power Squadron is a constituent of the United States Power Squadron, which is comprised of over 49,000 members in

448 squadrons and divided geographically into 33 districts. Membership is open to all interested persons 18 and older without regard to race, religion, gender, or any other characteristic protected by the non-discrimination laws of the United States.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Delaware River Power Squadron for the past 90 years of service and dedicated commitment to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 5, H.R. 670 and rollcall No. 6, H.R. 657 on February 8, 2006, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

THE FACE OF POVERTY IN AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina exposed what America did not want to see. Beyond the tragedy of this natural disaster, Katrina shined a spotlight on America's poor and disadvantaged. The convenience of disregarding the plight of the poor came to an abrupt halt as a result of Katrina and its aftermath. Katrina pulled the cover off of what prior reports by the U.S. Census Bureau found, which stated for the past four years, the poverty rate has steadily increased; which is a reverse trend from 1993 to 2000.

Katrina also exposed the gross disparities relating to poverty in America. According to the Census Bureau 2004 report, the Black poverty rate of 24.7 percent is almost twice that of the general population. This translates to about 9.4 million African Americans, almost one in-four living below the poverty line. Consequently, those affected by the Katrina devastation were disproportionately Black and poor. Despite the rhetoric of conservative pundits who claim that poverty in the Black community is due to irresponsibility, statistics show that individuals living below the poverty line are hard working citizens who go to work every day. It should be underscored that poverty is a result of a lack of income. Americans fall into poverty simply because they do not have enough financial resources. So it is plausible that even when people are working in the market place they can still fall into poverty. Statistics show that one-in-ten African Americans above 16 who were poor worked full-time jobs.

Furthermore, 37 million Americans are living in poverty. Statistics in 2004 indicate that 13 million American children lived below the poverty line, translating into three-in-seventeen. This was an increase of roughly 200,000 from 2003, which means 3,000 children were falling into poverty each week. Moreover, African American children under the age of 18 consist of 43 percent of all poor African Americans.

Senior citizens, those 65 and older, have a poverty rate of 23.8 percent. In comparison with other counterparts, statistics show that more African Americans and Hispanics are in poverty at a higher rate than whites and other racial classifications. African American children represent 17 percent of American children, but they make up 31 percent of all poor children in America.

Conservatives are quick to attribute poverty to dysfunctional family structures. However, renowned economist such as William Springs suggests that this is a gross over simplification. He contends that poverty is the "result of economy-wide forces and public policy." Mr. Speaker, I share this analysis, hence, it places the onus on policy makers to enact legislation centered on relieving the burden poverty. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 the Black poverty rate decreased to 32.2 percent. During the years of 1993 to 2000 which were marked by strong fiscal policy the poverty rate for African Americans dropped annually.

Katrina exposed America's weakness, not only in the Federal Government's delinquent response, but also relative to our inability to address poverty particularly in the minority community. As we consider the 2007 fiscal budget, we must see the opportunity to provide provisions that alleviate poverty in the Gulf Coast and urban communities across the Nation. Tax cuts for the wealthy and the slashing of social programs will not suffice.

Mr. Speaker, a recent article in the "The Crisis", entitled Poverty in America: The Poor are getting Poorer, by William E. Spriggs captures the statistical data and reports that highlight the issue of poverty in America, especially the disparities as to race.

HONORING KJELL BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kjell Bergh on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Mr. Bergh is a respected Minnesota business leader and a true citizen of the world, working extensively with civic and business organizations and governments around the globe. Mr. Bergh will be celebrating his birthday with his family and friends in Minnesota on February 18.

Born in Kristiansund, Norway, Mr. Bergh was educated at the University of Oslo and Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, earning his B.A. in International Relations there in 1970. In 2004, Mr. Bergh received his masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Mr. Bergh is well known as the owner of several major automotive dealerships in Minnesota. In addition, he owns travel agencies specializing in tours and adventure travel in Scandinavia and Africa. Along with his business connections, he has fostered an impressive commitment to our community here in Minnesota, earning numerous awards for his work and serving on many boards of prominent businesses, academic institutions and non-profit organizations. His international links

have inspired a similarly strong commitment to communities around the world, particularly in Africa.

In 2000, Bergh was named Honorary Consul to the United Republic of Tanzania by President Benjamin Mkapa, lending his expertise on trade, education and tourism. He is highly respected for his dedicated service to environmental and community issues such as anti-poaching and building hospitals and schools. He has been a valued resource to me and my office on the many issues facing Africa.

Among Bergh's many distinctions and awards for his service, perhaps he has the best reason to be proud of the royal decorations from his native Norway. He was bestowed Knight First Class, Royal Order of Merit by King Harald V and the prestigious St. Olav medal by the late King Olav V. In addition, he received the Royal order of the Polar Star from the Sweden's King Carl Gustaf.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Kjell Bergh on his 60th birthday. Amid his busy life and his many accomplishments and awards, I know that he is looking forward to spending this special day with the most important people in his life—his family and friends.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CARL PAPA, JR.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Tennessean, Carl Papa, Jr. After 33 years of dedicated service to East Tennessee, Mr. Papa has retired as the Chief Pretrial Services Officer for the United States District Court for the Eastern Tennessee District.

Carl Papa, Jr. was born on June 29, 1949, in Camden, New Jersey. He graduated from Collingswood High School in Collingswood, New Jersey, in 1968. He attended Milligan College in East Tennessee, graduating in August 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology.

Carl was hired by the Tennessee Department of Corrections in October 1972 as a Probation and Parole Officer. On January 5, 1976, he was appointed as the U.S. Probation Officer in the Eastern District of Tennessee by the Honorable Robert Love Taylor. Meanwhile, Carl attended the University of Tennessee, my alma mater, where he earned a Masters of Science in 1982.

He served as the U.S. Probation Officer for East Tennessee until April 19, 1993, when he was appointed the Chief Pretrial Services Officer for the Eastern Tennessee District. He retired from his position on the federal court on January 20, 2006. After 30 years of serving the community in federal court, and 33 years of public service to the citizens of East Tennessee, Mr. Papa has begun a well-earned retirement.

Carl has two children. Carl's son, Benjamin C. Papa, resides in Nashville with his children, Eli and Ella. His daughter, Bethany Burnette, lives in Knoxville. Carl has been married to Donna C. Crumpton since May 28, 2004.

I wish to express my gratitude on behalf of my fellow residents of East Tennessee for the

dedication Mr. Papa has shown over the past 33 years. I wish him and his family all the best as he begins the next stage of his life. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Papa for his service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO ILEEN GREEN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ileen Green, daughter to Marilyn and Harry Griver, a sister, a teacher, a mother, a peace activist, and most recently, a grandmother.

Ileen Green has spent the majority of her adult life giving to others in many special ways. Her dedication to Philadelphia students is the easiest to pinpoint. She has been a dedicated teacher in middle school and elementary school for over 20 years. Shortly after she started her career in teaching she taught one of the first desegregation classes here. She fought for everyone to have a fair opportunity for and good education. She was an activist. She became pregnant a few years later, having to leave her job as a school teacher, temporarily. She named her daughter Kelly, after an African American male student who was in her first desegregation class. "He was very gifted and special," she always said.

As a single mom and, without any outside support, Ileen raised her family, at the time women lacked many equal rights. She was unable to even sign a lease for an apartment unless a man signed it as well. There were limited opportunities for women in business and childcare was an expense she couldn't afford. Ileen worked from home, telemarketing, and made just enough to pay the bills. Her family struggled over the years. Ileen decided this wasn't enough. Ileen decided to go into business for herself and became a very successful saleswoman. This however required many travel obligations that separated her from her daughter. Ileen wanted to keep her family close and so she decided to return to teaching, where she has stayed.

Her loving daughter Kelly describes her as "the type of mother all my friends wanted. She never hesitated to give advice, support, and hugs. Several times my mother took on the extended responsibilities of becoming a foster mom. All the while, active in women's rights groups, focused on her work, and yet always finding time to be her daughter's best friend and greatest supporter."

Ileen has found herself in poor health for the last decade but through it all she returns to work finding strength in doing what she loves most, making a difference in the lives of children. Even now, in kidney failure, and facing serious decline in her health she still will not give up. She returns to the classroom, and provides the love, kindness, and education today's children desperately need. She teaches because she loves what she does and she does it well.

Ileen Green has been through her fair share of struggles. Single motherhood, survival of domestic abuse, and financial hardships have not been able to stifle her spirit. Through it all, she has continued to be a kind, loving, generous, and sincere woman and mother. The

kind that her daughter, as a recent mother herself, hopes to be. In recognition of her years of service to her community I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 7, H.R. 4297, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

IN RECOGNITION OF AFRICARE'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Africare organization. Africare is the oldest and largest African-American led organization committed to providing direct aid to the African continent—a leader in the fields of long-term sustainable development and health care, especially with regard to HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention.

The thousands of African families who have benefited through Africare's humanitarianism stand as a testament to the power of the organization's selfless mission. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Africare for many years of service embodying one of our Nation's most commendable ideal—extending our hand and heart to our fellow brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Africare helps Africa. Over the course of its history, Africare has become a pioneer among private, charitable U.S. organizations assisting Africa. The organization has supported hundreds of grassroots projects in Africa that have changed the lives of families living on the continent. Africare's programs address needs in the principal areas of food security and agriculture as well as health and HIV/AIDS. Africare also supports water resource development, environmental management, basic education, microenterprise development, governance initiatives and emergency humanitarian aid. Africare reaches families and communities in 26 countries in every major region of Sub-Saharan Africa, from Mali to South Africa and from Senegal to Mozambique.

The founders of Africare had a vision—to transform the lives of Africans and infuse into the often-forgotten and deprived continent much needed sustenance. In 1970, West Africa was suffering through one of the most severe droughts in its history which threatened the livelihood of livestock and crops. Villagers were fleeing their homes in search of water. Millions of human lives held in the balance.

Among those providing help—medical aid in Niger—were 17 American volunteers, led by Dr. William Kirker, and his wife Barbara. Together they named their group "Africare." The Kerkers themselves had been working in Africa, to improve African health care, since 1966. Although the work by the Kerkers was invaluable, more was needed to be done to stifle the

crisis sweeping through the area. Diori Hamani, then president of the Republic of Niger, sought more support from the U.S., in particular from the African-American community. C. Payne Lucas, then director of the Peace Corps Office of Returned Volunteers in Washington was one individual who answered the call. He went on to become the first president of Africare, spending 30 years at the organization. He brought a unique blend of passion and steadfast commitment during his 40-year career in African development.

Under the leadership of the Kirkers and Lucas, Africare flourished and continued to make valuable contributions towards the development of the African continent. At the annual Africare dinner last October the 13th, the founders of Africare were recognized in remarks made by Africare vice president Jeannine Scott. The event was attended by notable individuals including that year's Africare Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award recipient, General Colin Powell, the former U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Dorothy Height, president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, and my colleagues Representatives WILLIAM JEFFERSON of Louisiana and BARBARA LEE of Texas, as well as other civil and business leaders.

At the anniversary dinner, Africare vice president Jeannine Scott introduced the founders of Africare and recounted the story of how the organization was founded. I thought it would be useful for you to understand the history of the organization and I therefore ask that the text of her speech be entered into the RECORD.

PRESENTATION OF THE FOUNDERS OF AFRICARE
(By Jeannine B. Scott)

Dr. Kirker and his wife Barbara are here with us tonight and we are honored to pay tribute to them and the vision they had to found an organization to initially respond to the many health care needs of our brothers and sisters in Africa.

In addition to these founders, we have with us some of the first volunteers who served with them. They are:

James Sattler, an attorney in Hawaii who donated his services at the very beginning of Africare's life;

Joan Victoria Saccardi—a volunteer on Africare's very first trip to Africa, and who faced her own bouts of illness while carrying out the work she believed in;

And Cosco Carlhom was also one of the dedicated volunteers on the very first trip, providing vital technical expertise and was one of only a handful of volunteers to complete the entire two-year mission.

Please join me in welcoming these very first Africare pioneers.

Another early Africare supporter, Myra Takaski, was not able to join us here tonight. Through the Savings and Loan she headed, Ms. Takaski provided Africare with all the clerical and support services the young organization needed. Our thoughts are with her this evening.

Out of the looming dilemma that Africa was facing, His Excellency Ambassador Oumarou Youssoufou, the First Secretary at the Niger Embassy, contacted his old friend C. Payne Lucas who had been Peace Corps director in Niger, beseeching him on the part of then president Hamani Diori to lend his expertise and leadership to the organization.

Ambassador Youssoufou and Mr. Lucas discussed the idea. Mr. Lucas was then working at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington and was interested in new ways to im-

prove the quality of life in Africa. C. Payne also remembered a question that had been posed to him years earlier by President Diori: "Why don't black Americans, whose ancestors came from the continent, respond to the needs in Africa?"

Mr. Lucas agreed to assume the leadership of the organization, insisting on two important conditions. The first was to expand Africare's focus to include not only health, but water and agriculture as well. His second condition was to ensure that the organization would be rooted in the African-American community and would serve to educate all Americans about Africa—its human, spiritual, historical, and material wealth.

With these objectives on the table, Mr. Lucas became the first executive director of Africare. He reincorporated the organization in Washington, D.C. and recruited another Peace Corps staff member Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy to serve as his deputy.

With an interest-free loan of \$30,000 and a second-hand 4x4 vehicle turned over to the program in Niger after a cross-Saharan trek—both provided by a dedicated benefactor, the late Mrs. Lorraine Aimes Watriss—the "reborn" Africare was on its way.

For the next year, the only paid employee of Africare was a secretary. C. Payne himself accepted no salary and donated the basement of his house as Africare's first office. In addition to grants, Africare collected donations from ordinary people, often just a few dollars, or nickels and dimes and Mr. Lucas would say, at a time. Seeing the value of organization, the Nigerian Embassy then agreed to house Africare, volunteering the first floor of its Chancery near Dupont Circle.

It was surely not easy. But the vision and sincerest of commitments were its impetus to succeed. And succeed, I am sure ladies and gentlemen you will agree they did!

It is from these humble beginnings that the Africare you see, know and support today emerged and grew under the guidance of Mr. Lucas and Dr. Kennedy.

Thanks to their 30+ years of efforts, energy, sacrifice, risking their careers and more, a solid foundation was laid:

Enabling the original vision to become a true and tangible reality;

Fostering a legacy that has led to the transfer of over half a billion dollars for more than 2,000 economic and humanitarian assistance projects to some 36 countries throughout Africa;

Touching over 2 million lives directly on the continent;

Training and mentoring hundreds, if not thousands of young Africans and Americans to follow in their footsteps;

Constructing Africare House—home to many whose convictions and activities embrace Africa;

Educating the American people of the greatness that is Africa!

In honoring our founders this evening I would like to ask Dr. and Mrs. Kirker, along with the first Africare volunteers present here tonight, Mr. Sattler, Ms. Saccardi, and Mr. Carlhom, to join me here on the stage.

I would also like to acknowledge His Excellency Ambassador Oumarou Youssoufou. He could not be with us tonight, but is ably represented by his daughter Zouera Youssoufou. I would like to invite her onto the stage in her father's place.

I would also like to call a teacher, colleague, my professor and friend, Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy to join us here on stage.

And finally, I have the distinct honor to call a visionary leader and guide, and my mentor, Mr. C. Payne Lucas.

It is truly an honor for us to pay tribute to all of you here tonight. Please join me, la-

dies and gentlemen, in welcoming Africare's earliest pioneers and leaders: Dr. William Kirker and Mrs. Barbara Kirker, Mr. Sattler, Ms. Saccardi, and Mr. Carlhom, Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy and Mr. C. Payne Lucas—the people who made tonight's 35th anniversary possible.

I ask that the text of a statement by Africare president Julius E. Coles which outlines Africare's work today also be entered into the RECORD.

Although Africare's initial focus was on providing medical care to the needy of Africa, the methods used to raise the standard of living in Africa soon grew more diverse.

When C. Payne Lucas took the helm of Africare in 1972, he saw that in order to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Africans, the organization had to do more than provide occasional medical care. In order to change the situation in Africa, Africare would also have to assist Africans in gaining access to the tools necessary to take control of their own lives.

Following in Lucas's vision, Africare has focused on three main areas: health and HIV/AIDS, humanitarian relief, and food security. Over the years, we have developed close working relationships with African governments.

By working in tandem with governments at the national and local levels, as well as with countless communities and villages throughout Africa, we have shown ourselves to be trustworthy partners in development.

In response to Africa's need for additional medical care, we have committed ourselves to addressing the health issues that adversely affect the families we serve. Africare's programs have a strong HIV/AIDS component that tackles an entire spectrum of issues related to the disease. HIV/AIDS awareness and education programs focusing on concrete behavior change given the people we work with the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe from infection. Africare also works to address the needs of people living with AIDS and provide care for children orphaned by the disease.

Africare has also taken steps to encourage stable, long-term increases in the standard of living. Africare's Food For Development staff members in countries across Africa help locals to achieve food security by delivering food supplies and providing technical assistance to local farmers. Using food resources and funds from the U.S. government, Africare administers both emergency food distribution as well as Food For Work programs in which food supplies are exchanged for community service. Africare staff also helps locals to maximize the productivity of their land through modern farming techniques. By planting new crops and using innovative farming methods, African families can increase their annual yield and better withstand otherwise disastrous events like droughts and famines.

Africare also provides humanitarian relief services to victims of natural and manmade disasters across Africa. Our current programs distribute Title II food supplies to victims of famine and drought. Africare also works intensively with refugees to ensure that people forced to flee their homelands are provided not only with the supplies they need to survive, but the skills and resources to rebuild damaged societies.

In addition to the three pillars of health and HIV/AIDS, food security, and emergency relief, Africare works through a variety of means to facilitate positive changes in the daily life of Africa. By building wells and springs, Africare develops resources from which entire communities can draw safe, clean drinking water. Through education initiatives, children and adults gain the literacy skills necessary for long-term success

and access to practical health and nutrition information. Our environmental programs have planted thousands of trees which enrich ecosystems and will reduce soil erosion, benefiting future generations. Africare's focus on stable societies includes initiatives to foster civil society and responsive governance. Africare supports indigenous nongovernmental organizations and encourages peaceful transitions in changing societies.

Microfinance programs encourage women to start small businesses which help communities become more resistant to economic downturns.

Over the past 35 years, Africare has been able to work with millions of people in 35 countries across the continent. Our organization has grown to be leader in the field and a model of how Africans and Americans of all races can work together towards a common goal. Now we are more convinced than ever of the necessity of helping to build a stronger, more stable Africa. As we continue with our work, we will also continue to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, Africare is an institution of which all Americans should be proud. Please join me in saluting Africare for all it has done over the last 35 years and wishing it well as it continues to bring hope and inspiration to millions of people throughout Africa.

TRIBUTE TO MARCH BEING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS SOUTH- EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAP- TER MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that March is the American Red Cross Month for the Southeastern chapter.

The American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter was officially formed on January 22, 1916, to "carry out a system of national and international relief in times of peace, and apply that system in mitigating the suffering caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry out measures for preventing those calamities."

The American Red Cross trained more than 11 million Americans in valuable life-saving skills last year, 64,144 of them right in Philadelphia. Of a population of 4 million, the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, responded to 804 local disasters and provided relief services for 1,280 families and a total of 4,012 people. Operating 18 disaster shelters, helped 2,933 military families, and trained 61,822 individuals in Red Cross health and safety courses, and another 24,631 people in the community disaster education. The American Red Cross has housed 367 families whose homes were unexpectedly destroyed by natural disasters.

The American Red Cross has helped collect life-saving blood from 92,587 donors. 175,000 residents across the 5 counties on southeastern Pennsylvania have been a part of this to help their fellow citizens in times of need. The American Red Cross is the place that more than 25,000 people in these 5 counties turned to after the tsunami, and their contributions made it possible from 22,459 Red Cross volunteers from 40 countries to provide help

and hope to 840,000 victims 2 continents away.

One in 5 Americans is touched by the Red Cross every single year. The southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Red Cross promotes economic self-sufficiency and community health through its Nurses Assistant Training program which educated 180 students last year.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing March as the American Red Cross Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter month.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MEN- TORING MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus I rise today in strong support for National Mentoring Month.

Millions of individuals across the country serve as mentors to young men and women—encouraging and promoting the development of strong characters and identities for youth who may not have a strong adult presence in their lives.

In my own State of Minnesota, there are over 350 mentoring programs that connect youth with positive role models. One valuable mentoring program is Big Brothers Big Sisters. In the St. Paul/Minneapolis region alone, more than 3,700 children benefit from this mentoring program with the time and energy of more than 3,200 volunteers.

Minnesota is also home to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, which formed in 1994 as a community initiative to promote mentoring for Minnesota youth, particularly those who are at risk and may lack positive role models in their lives.

A mentor can be a friend, a listener, a coach, a tutor, or a confidant. A mentor simply cares enough to be a good listener, and they often open doors to new worlds—offering encouragement and support along the way. Mentoring programs create opportunities and encourage successes that can last a lifetime.

I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. OSBORNE from Nebraska, whose cousin—the Honorable Kathleen Vellenga—was a mentor of mine when I served in the Minnesota State House of Representatives.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution and to look for opportunities to be a mentor themselves.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WEBB

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and death of a great Tennessean.

Mr. Robert Webb accomplished more good for the people of Southeast Tennessee than many others of greater fame.

Robert Webb was born in Fort Sanders, Tennessee, in 1919. On December 22nd of 2005, he passed away at the age of 86 years. His life's work was spent nurturing Knoxville's educational needs.

Mr. Webb graduated from the renowned Bell Buckle, Tennessee, Webb School founded by his grandfather and former Senator, Robert "Old Sawney" Webb, before earning his bachelor's and master's degree from my alma mater, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Between degrees, he served our Country admirably in WWII.

After brief teaching stints at the Bell Buckle School and the Webb School of Claremont, California, Mr. Webb founded Knoxville's Webb School in 1955.

The school started with four boys in the basement of Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church. Shortly thereafter, Webb added a Girls' School.

The School stood at the forefront of educational equality when it declared an open-door policy in 1965. Mr. Webb followed this pronouncement with a then-controversial speech in favor of racial integration made to a convention of Southern private-school leaders.

Despite criticism, Mr. Webb persevered to make Knoxville's Webb School one of Tennessee's finest private educational institutions. It currently enrolls over 1,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and all members of its 2005 graduating class were accepted into college.

It is significant to note that Robert Webb chose the following motto for his school: "Leaders, Not Men." This is a telling statement of how he approached service to the community and the Nation, with a willingness to blaze difficult trails so that others could follow.

Throughout his later years, Mr. Webb remained active in the community, leading the establishment of the Museum of East Tennessee History, and fundraising for the historic Bijou Theatre in Knoxville.

It is clear that his contributions to the legacy of private education in the South, and the cultural edification of Knoxville, will not soon be forgotten.

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Tennessee, I express heartfelt condolences for the Webb Family, and great appreciation for the life work of Robert Webb.

I call to the attention of the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article written by Judge Bill Swann in the Knoxville News Sentinel that accompanies these remarks.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel]

ROBERT WEBB: GREAT TEACHERS LIVE ON

(By Bill Swann)

I remember the wonder with which Jerome Taylor and I grasped—it was September 1956, the first week in Mr. Webb's Latin class, my first week at Webb School—that you could actually say a thing some other way than English. It was a transforming moment.

There were a lot of those in my four years at Webb. Some of them were "Aha" moments, like that encounter with my first foreign language. Some of them were fill-the-backpack moments—times you knew you were loading up with information you would always need and use. Some of them were character moments—times when I was a good citizen or a poor citizen and learned the consequences. Coach Sharp had a lot to do with those.

I can still remember the wonder with which I realized that I had landed at a school

where learning was an unquestioned good, where there was no such thing as "geekiness," when I realized that all of us were there because we wanted to learn.

There were 16 of us in the class of 1960. I can name them all, fondly and with pride: Jim Hart, LeClair Greenblatt, Clark Smeltzer, "E.R." Boles, David Creekmore, Hugh Faust, Jim Bradley, Doug Newton, Chip Osborn, Sam Colville, Peter Krapf, Ed McCampbell, Sterling Shuttleworth, Kit Ewing, Jeff Goodson and me. Yes, "me," direct object of the verb "to name" in the previous sentence. Thank you, Miss Freeman.

Fondly, because of the friendships, successes, embarrassments, mistakes, follies and secrets. With pride, because of our progress in four years to a Webb-shaped maturity. There were also moments of grace: Jeff Goodson teaching me to tie a bow tie; it took Jeff three days, but it stuck Sam Colville teaching me to drive straight shift, in his own creampuff '55 Chevy with three on the column. It took him all track season, driving from the new campus to Fulton High School. Coach Sharp had gotten us practice privileges at Fulton. The new campus on Cedar Bluff Road didn't have a track; it barely had a football field.

By now we have read the obituaries, the newspaper articles, the tributes. All the talk about Robert Webb in the community, Bob Webb the force for social good.

For me and for many of us, there is no Robert Webb, no Bob Webb. There is only the great and fine man we called and always will call "Mr. Webb." He limped into our lives in the basement of Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church and changed each one of us forever.

So Mr. Webb is dead? I don't think so. "But," they say—the people who believe Mr. Webb is dead—"there was the memorial service. The singing of hymns. There was the great obit by Jack Neely in Metropulse. There was the long obit in the News Sentinel. He's dead, they say. Nope, Mr. Webb is not dead; never will be.

In my life and I hope in yours there is an unbroken line of great teachers. For me, the line is: Miss Freeman, who taught me seventh-grade English at Tyson Junior High School. Mr. Webb, who introduced me to Latin in the ninth grade. Ted Bruning, my English teacher for the four years at Webb. R.E. Sharp, the teacher of life skills at Webb. And John Sobieski, professor of civil procedure at the "University of Tennessee law school.

The line is unbroken not because these great teachers are all still alive but because they are all still with me. They always will be. They live in my house. They are with me when I talk to my children, they are with me when I try to be my best, they are with me when I reach out to others. These five fine people required hard work and excellence in their own lives and expect the same of me.

I had some good teachers at Harvard and Yale. But I had my great teachers, my five great teachers, right here in Knoxville. I don't know what that means. Perhaps the best teaching is done by those who are not overly impressed with themselves, by those who know that you never stand so tall as when you reach down to help someone, by those who love learning and want you to share that love.

Henry Brooks Adams said, "A teacher affects eternity. He never knows where his influence stops." Mr. Webb affected our eternities. He trained us to excellence. Mr. Webb wanted the best from each of us, there in the basement of the church. We delivered him our best because of his enthusiasm for learning. We delivered him our best because of his evident joy in the life of the mind. We delivered him our best because of his love of life itself.

He wanted us to be leaders. We became leaders because we wanted to be like him. He took mere human beings and produced leaders. You know the Latin in the coat of arms: You went to Webb.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICK JOSEPH BRADLEY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Joseph Bradley, loving husband of Joan (Nicoletti), father of Jesse 21 and Nicholas 16 and brother of James, Daniel, Joseph and Allen Bradley passed away Thursday, February 2, 2006.

Pat was a devoted husband to his wife Joan and a wonderful father who participated in every activity concerning both his sons. Pat coached both Jesse and Nicholas' sports teams and tirelessly volunteered at the Water Tower Recreation Center. Thanks to Pat's efforts as a Democratic Committeeman and Board Member of the Chestnut Hill Youth Sports League he was able to secure thousands of dollars in funding for the Water Tower Recreation Center.

As a very active member in the community he served as a board member of Chestnut Hill Youth Sports League, a Democratic Committeeman to the 9th ward 4th division. As a pillar of the community he was also a founding member of Chestnut Hill Run for the Hill Member Jenks Home and School Association. In tribute to a wonderful husband, father, brother and pillar of the community, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him and all of his accomplishments.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last spring, China passed the anti-secession law to give Chinese leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities in Taiwan. This law assumes the unification of China and Taiwan and proposes that those opposed to the unification are subject to punishment. In addition to the enactment of the anti-secession law, China's rapid military build-up has given the Taiwanese people a sense of dread.

In a recent public opinion poll, 70 percent of Taiwanese people oppose China's institution of the "anti-secession" law. Mr. Speaker, the freedom loving people of Taiwan deserve to be treated with respect. I stand with the people of Taiwan in their zeal for freedom and liberty.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ED WYNN OF NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa County Chief Investigator Ed Wynn of Napa, California as he retires after 35 years of distinguished public service.

A California native, Ed was born in Berkeley to parents Dick and Katherine Wynn. Ed graduated from Napa High School in 1967 and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Golden Gate University in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, Ed's brutal honesty, strong leadership and commitment to doing the right thing have made him indispensable to protecting the residents of Napa County. While earning his degree, Ed was hired by the Napa County Sheriff's Office in September of 1970 to serve as a Deputy Sheriff and head the Napa County jail. After 15 years of increasing responsibilities, Ed was promoted to Chief Investigator in 1995. Over the last 10 years, he has been a leader and a mentor within his division and throughout the entire District Attorney's office.

Ed has also been a leader in our community by dedicating his time to numerous organizations, including Native Sons of the Golden West, Moose Lodge, Legions of Valor Association and the Navy League Association. He has also served as a basketball coach for St. John's Middle School and the Napa County Recreational Youth League.

Mr. Speaker, as any of his friends or colleagues will tell you, Ed is a man of integrity, justice and honor. One of Ed's most discernible characteristics is his love for our country. He is a true American hero. Shortly after Ed graduated from high school in 1967, he enlisted in the Marines. That same year Ed was deployed to Vietnam. During his tour, Ed fought valiantly for our country. He courageously risked his own life to save the lives of others and was nearly killed on three separate occasions. In recognition of his bravery, Ed was awarded three purple hearts, the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V", the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest honor.

I believe I speak on behalf of Ed's wife, Joyce, his children Dan, Mike, Jim, Holly and his three grandchildren Mathew, Tyson and Madison when I say we are all extremely proud of him.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Ed Wynn for his unwavering dedication to Napa County and to our country. On behalf of the entire United States Congress and our grateful nation, I wish Ed the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to introduce this resolution congratulating the 2005 University of Portland

women's soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Championship. The Pilots completed an undefeated season, capturing the National Championship by scoring four goals in their final game against the University of California, Los Angeles.

Not only is this the University of Portland's second championship in four years, but the 2005 season was the most successful for the team to date. The Pilots set the University's women's soccer record with an undefeated season.

The story of the 2005 season is illustrated with broken records. The loyal fans of the University of Portland set the NCAA season attendance record for both men's and women's soccer teams and led the Nation in average home attendance.

There is no way one could speak to the accomplishments of the University of Portland soccer program without heralding the amazing talent of the coaching staff, both past and present. The program was brought to excellence by the late Clive Charles who was respected by soccer enthusiasts worldwide. In 2002, Charles led the Pilots to their first ever championship in any sport. Sadly, Charles died in 2003 from complications of prostate cancer.

With Head Coach Garrett Smith now at the helm, the Pilots have continued their superiority on the soccer field. Coach Smith has devoted 18 honorable years to the University of Portland soccer program, both as a player and a coach, and his ability to lead his team with creativity and vision has earned him great respect.

I wish warm congratulations to every player, coach, student, alumnus, faculty member, and supporter of the University of Portland. There is much to celebrate up on the "Bluff" and the women's soccer team is a great example of the excellence the University produces and I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution.

STATEMENT ON METHYL BROMIDE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I gave the attached statement, in support of the banning of methyl bromide on February 15, 2006.

STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: HEARING ON "METHYL BROMIDE: ARE U.S. INTERESTS BEING SERVED BY THE CRITICAL USE EXEMPTION PROCESS?"

I was dismayed when I learned that today we would be discussing efforts to perpetuate—and possibly increase—the use of methyl bromide. Continuing to allow it to be manufactured and used is bad for the environment, bad for human health, bad for international relations, bad economics, and is simply unnecessary.

Methyl bromide has been responsible for a significant amount of the degradation of our protective ozone layer. In 2005, the size of the resulting hole in that layer over the Antarctic reached 9.4 million square miles, an area almost as big as the combined areas of the U.S. and Canada, according to NASA. Current estimates say that it will take another 50 years for the hole to repair itself.

Too much UV-B, which is filtered by the ozone layer, causes cataracts and suppresses our immune systems, making us more vulnerable to viruses and bacteria. It also contributes to skin cancer. It was this threat to human health that was a major reason that the international community agreed to ban it. It was a display of unprecedented cooperation in the face of an environmental threat.

Methyl bromide puts our own workers and consumers at risk too. When it is injected into the soil, it kills almost every living thing in the soil. It is no wonder that it also causes chronic health problems for the workers who apply it and the nearby communities who are also exposed to it. Exposure has effects on the neurological system including functional impairment, lethargy, twitching, tremors, and paralysis in extreme cases. It has also been linked to prostate cancer and birth defects in some studies.

Continuing the manufacture of methyl bromide is bad economics. Since the international community agreed to phase out methyl bromide, companies who play by the rules have been planning for its phaseout. They have incurred real financial costs by investing in alternatives, anticipating the phase-out required by the Montreal Protocol. Failing to adhere to the U.S. promise to phase out methyl bromide puts these companies who were playing by the rules at an unfair competitive disadvantage. Those who do the right thing and obey the law should be rewarded for their good faith efforts, not punished.

Consider the international relations implications as well. An attempt to let the U.S. allow methyl bromide to be used without going through the specified channels—like other countries are required to do—would further harm our standing in the international community. It sends a signal to other countries that we will only honor our agreements until we change our mind. It harms negotiations on future agreements. It furthers the stereotype of the U.S. as the bull in the proverbial global china shop.

The EPA is currently trying to address the methyl bromide issue by substituting chemicals, like methyl iodide, that aren't as harmful to the ozone layer but are still highly toxic. Instead, we need to look to alternatives for pest control that not only preserve the ozone layer but also protect worker health, community health, consumer health, and ecological health. In fact, that's exactly what Americans want.

One of the biggest growth industries right now is organic food. According to the Congressional Research Service, "The annual rate of market growth since 1990 has remained steady at about 20%." When given a choice between food grown with toxic chemicals or food grown organically, people choose the latter, especially when the price is comparable, which is increasingly the case as economies of scale become more prevalent.

One of methyl bromide's biggest uses is for strawberry crops. Jake Lewin, director of marketing for California Certified Organic Farmers says "... strawberries can be grown without pesticide. We've got 60 growers who don't use (methyl bromide) ... The bottom line is small and large growers have successfully produced strawberries without pesticides."

So we are talking about yielding to the management of chemical producers and agribusiness—who by the way rarely have to apply the toxic pesticide themselves or live in the adjacent communities—at a drastic cost to our health and that of the earth. It speaks to a systematic deference to corporations at the expense of the biological systems on which we intimately depend for life. It is unwise and unnecessary. I call for the immediate and permanent phase-out of methyl bromide.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, AFRICAN-AMERICAN
TRAILBLAZERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my support and appreciation to the Johnson County, Kansas, chapter of the NAACP, whose Youth Council, along with the Johnson County Library, will be holding a program at the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, on Saturday, February 18th, to honor and reflect upon Johnson County's African-American "trailblazers." Specifically, this program will honor the following six individuals, families and organizations:

JULIUS MCFARLIN

Julius McFarlin, born in Conway, Arkansas, was instrumental in organizing the chartering of the Branch of the NAACP in Johnson County. While waiting for the Branch to be officially chartered, McFarlin served as its President from 1972–1977. In September 1977 the Branch, named the Merriam, Kansas, NAACP, was chartered and Mr. McFarlin continue serving as its President until 1998. McFarlin is still active with the Branch and is a Life-Time Member.

Not only is Mr. McFarlin a "Trailblazer" with his work with the NAACP, in 1973, McFarlin realized a need to become involved in the community and was elected to the Merriam City Council, Precinct One, Ward One—thus becoming the first African-American elected to a political office in Johnson County, Kansas. McFarlin served until 2000.

Believing in giving back to the community in which he so faithfully served, McFarlin's community involvement includes managing baseball teams for youths; prior service on the Board of South Park Neighborhood Council; a current member of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, in which he serves as the Chairman of the Trustee Board; and prior service on the Johnson County Mental Health Board; Public Works Board and City Finance Committee.

Married to his bride of 60 years, the lovely Marzella (Wilson) McFarlin, Julius McFarlin is truly a Johnson County "Trailblazer".

DR. NORGE W. JEROME

Dr. Norge W. Jerome, a Nutritional Anthropologist, International Health and Nutrition Scientist, and Women in Development Specialist, is currently Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Jerome has served as Senior Research Fellow at the Center for University Cooperation in Development, Bureau of Science and Technology, U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.), Department of State, in Washington, D.C., and as Director of the Office of Nutrition at A.I.D. Dr. Jerome also served as Interim Associate Dean for Minority Affairs, at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, as well as having published widely, with 2 books and over 100 articles to her credit.

Dr. Jerome was born and raised on the southern Caribbean island of Grenada and came to the United States to

study at Howard University. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1973 and went on to earn a B.S. degree (Magna Cum Laude) from Howard University; her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dr. Jerome led a pioneering role in launching nutritional anthropology as a discipline within anthropology. Dr. Jerome has received numerous honors, tributes and awards and served on many national and international committees and panels concerned with women's health and development issues.

For her many contributions, not only to this community, but worldwide, Dr. Jerome is being recognized as a Johnson County "Trailblazer".

MAYOR CARL WILKES

Carl Wilkes and his wife of 42 years, Wanda, have been residents of Merriam, Kansas, for 40 years. Carl has a 31-year career in public service for local and federal governments and currently serves as a Field Supervisor for the Housing Services Division of Johnson County's Human Services and Aging Department.

Carl Wilkes was instrumental in the development and receipt of funds for the first transportation program for the elderly in Johnson County, "Dial-A-Ride". Carl also established—in conjunction with United Community Services—the Multi-Service Center, served as its Executive Director and developed and secured funding for the City of Kansas City, Kansas, Section 8 Housing Program and served as its Director.

Carl Wilkes has received numerous awards and recognition for his service, such as Certificates of Commendation; the Meritorious Public Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award, to name a few. Nevertheless, Carl Wilkes will always be remembered in Johnson County as the first African-American to be elected as Mayor of a local community. On April 23, 2001, Carl Wilkes was sworn in as the 10th Mayor of Merriam, Kansas. On recount, his election was determined by two votes. Carl Wilkes is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Merriam, Kansas.

Carl Wilkes is truly a "Trailblazer" and deserving of such recognition.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH—MERRIAM, KANSAS

In 1922, the members of Shiloh Baptist and First Baptist in Merriam, Kansas, combined their two churches to form Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Mt. Olive members were, and still are, active in church, community and political affairs. During the 1940s Mt. Olive played an important role in helping the parents who were involved in the seminal 1949 decision involving school desegregation—Webb vs. Merriam Board of Education. Mt. Olive, during this litigation, which lasted for approximately two years, opened up its doors for school to be set up and receive instruction. The support of Mt. Olive members helped them to achieve this wonderful victory.

It was also during the late 1940s and early 1950s that the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, allowed the NAACP to utilize its basement for its meetings and continue to be a voice in the community for civil rights and equality advocating. To this day, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church is still committed to the spiritual growth of all and concerned about matters that impact the community.

For its contributions to the development of Johnson County, Kansas, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church is truly a "Trailblazer".

ALFONSO AND MARV WEBB

In 1947, parents of 39 school children attempted but failed to enroll their children in the new South Park Grade School, which was less than a mile from their homes. The parents did not want to send their children to the Madame C.J. Walker School, which did not have running water, electricity or up-to-date textbooks. Instead, the parents elected, with the permission of the pastor of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, to set up school at the church and in homes. Two of these parents were Alfonso and Mary Webb.

Preceding the Brown vs. The Topeka Board of Education decision, Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Webb, on behalf of their minor children, Harvey and Eugene Webb, the plaintiffs, filed suit in the 1948 desegregation case, Webb vs. School District #90. Included in this litigation were Shirley Ann Turner and Herbert Turner, minor children of Thelma and Earnest Turner, and Delores Gay and Patricia Black, minor children of Thomas Black.

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled that the black students would attend the previously all white South Park Elementary School. In September 1949 the black students were admitted without incident.

Alfonso and Mary Webb were truly "Trailblazers."

THE MCCALLOP FAMILY

Robert L. McCallop was born in Wilder, Kansas, in 1894. Robert reflected the success of African-Americans all across the country. He took something that many of us take for granted and turned it into an achievement based upon business and education.

In 1934 Robert turned the back of a truck into a bus to provide transportation for African-American children so that they could attend school in Wyandotte County, Kansas. The McCallop Company was the first black-owned bus company in Johnson County.

Thanks to the McCallop family, black children in Johnson County in the 1930s through the 1950s were able to get an education. Because of segregated times, African-American Johnson County children were unable to attend secondary school within the county. Instead, they were forced to cross over to Wyandotte County to attend Sumner High School.

Oscar Johnson, former educator and President of the Johnson County Branch of the NAACP, states: "the McCallops were a family so intact, so committed to stay the course in a community that wasn't always welcoming. Yet, they thrived and flourished despite the odds they faced".

William, sibling of Robert McCallop, and his wife Ruth, will appear at Saturday's event to accept this award for the contributions the McCallops has given to this county and the McCallops are truly "Trailblazers".

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to pay tribute to these distinguished Johnson Countians and to Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and I know that all members of the United States House of Representatives join with me in saluting these "trailblazers."

TRIBUTE TO EARL FOWLER

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Earl Fowler of Raleigh, North Carolina. Chief Fowler recently retired, ending 54 years of service to the Raleigh Fire Department by the Fowler family.

B.T. Fowler, the chief's father, joined the Raleigh fire department in 1956 and served with distinction until 1986, when he retired as a fire inspector and became the department's historian.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Earl Fowler followed his father's footsteps and joined the Raleigh department in 1971, where he rose through the ranks as a firefighter, district chief, fire marshal and assistant chief. He became chief in 1999.

I have had the pleasure to work with Chief Fowler over the years, and he has served with humility, honor and professionalism. His fellow chiefs have recognized him as "a leader and a visionary," as well as "a creative thinker and motivator."

Today, I am honored to recognize Chief Fowler and to thank him for his many years of dedication and service to the people of Raleigh and of the Second Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH BIRT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and former member of my staff, Ms. Elizabeth Ann Birt, who died following an auto accident while on vacation in Colorado late last year. Liz is survived by her three children: Sarah, Matthew, and Andrew.

In 1996, Liz's son Matthew was diagnosed with autism, a devastating neurological disorder that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, now afflicts approximately 1 in 166 American children. My own grandson is autistic so I know first-hand how traumatic this news can be for parents of newly diagnosed autistic children. All too often, parents give up on the search for answers because raising a child with autism requires so much more time and energy than raising a so-called average child.

Liz, however, did not back away from the fight. No matter how tired and discouraged she might have been, Liz was determined to show the world that one person can make a difference just by asking questions. Her courageous and infectious enthusiasm ignited a quest for truth and justice for the autistic children of this country. There can be no doubt that Liz fought hard for what she believed in and in the end, her brilliant mind, strong spirit, and passion for the truth made her a hero to the autism community.

In fact, it is through her work on autism that I first came to know Liz; and not long after I became Chairman of the Government Reform Committee in 1997, I invited her to join my

staff to help lead the Committee's investigation into the autism epidemic sweeping our country. As a valued legal advisor/investigator for the Committee, Liz helped us to elevate the level of public debate about this disease, as well as educate policymakers at all levels of government about the evolving science concerning the toxic effects of thimerosal—a mercury-based preservative commonly used in vaccines.

Like many of us who have been involved in this debate over the years, when Liz first heard about the connection between autism and thimerosal, she was skeptical. But she read everything she could find, requested government documents and studies, and in the end became convinced that thimerosal was in fact the cause of her son Matthew's autism. Armed with this knowledge, Liz helped to co-write the groundbreaking congressional staff report, "Mercury in Medicine—Taking Unnecessary Risks," published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 2003, which challenged the conventional thinking of the Federal Government, the public health systems, the medical communities, and the pharmaceutical companies on the subject of thimerosal and autism-spectrum disorders.

In addition to her government service, Liz served the autism community through her leadership in many nonprofit organizations. As the co-founder of the "Coalition for SafeMinds" (Sensible Action for Ending Mercury-induced Neurological Disorders), founder of Medical Interventions for Autism, founding board member of the National Autism Association, and co-creator of the Extreme Sports Camp in Aspen, Colorado, Liz brought joy, hope, and inspiration to many autistic children and their parents. In addition, Liz was one of the founding members of the autism community's first political action organization, A-CHAMP (Advocates for Children's Health Affected by Mercury Poisoning). Liz was especially proud of this venture; and in a short period of time A-CHAMP has become one of the driving forces behind the growing and highly successful movement to ban mercury at the State level.

I believe, as Liz did, that strong evidence points to the mercury unnecessarily used in vaccines as part of the autism problem, and that thimerosal played a key role in my grandson developing autism. The science is undeniable: mercury is a base element—and it remains a base element even when mixed with other materials—and the most toxic substance known to man outside of radioactive materials.

The fact is that no one has ever identified a positive health benefit to mercury in the human body, and as more science accumulates and more people learn about the dangers of mercury, more time runs out for those who continue to advocate that mercury in vaccines and other medical devices is safe. Eventually, even they will have to admit that it flies in the face of logic to suggest, much less believe, that a substance so dangerously toxic outside the body is harmless once injected into the human body.

Until that day comes, I know that I, and others like Liz who believe as I do, will not be silent about this issue or give up in our fight to make our world a safer and healthier place. And when that day does come, we will all owe a debt of gratitude to Liz Birt for leading the way and becoming a leader in a fight she would rather not have been fighting.

Liz will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in sending their deepest sympathies and heartfelt prayers to Liz's family. May God bless them.

HONORING DAVE WOOD, E. FLOYD FORBES AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Dave Wood for his achievement in receiving the distinguished E. Floyd Forbes Award. This prestigious tribute is awarded to those who have proven exemplary service to the National Meat Association (NMA) and the meat and poultry industry.

Mr. Wood currently serves as the chairman of the Beef Division for Harris Ranch, Inc., a notable company who praises and recognizes his service, dedication and loyalty.

Upon graduation from California State University Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1970, Mr. Wood relocated to the San Joaquin Valley and accepted a position with Harris Ranch, Inc. With the inception of his career, Mr. Wood embarked on a campaign to expand the company's feeding division, successfully doubling cattle productivity. Mr. Wood's unwavering demeanor and strong work ethic led him to assume more responsibilities within the company; opening the floodgates for his ingenious creativity to take form. Mr. Wood's contributions to Harris Ranch, Inc., include the establishment of the Partnership for Quality (PQ) program—a marketing technique that increased Harris Ranch, Inc.'s reputation by providing consumers with consistent, high quality beef. He also developed a line of fully-cooked premium heat and serve entrees as well as a number of fresh seasoned products to meet diversified consumer demand.

Mr. Wood's expertise goes beyond his role at Harris Ranch, Inc., with the ownership and management of Dave Wood Ranches and Wood Livestock, a cow-calf operation that is part of the Harris Ranch Partnership for Quality program. He is also co-owner of the historic Dressler Ranch near Bridgeport, California, a cattle and stocker cattle operation and he serves as a partner in Wood & Devine Cattle Co., Devine & Wood Farming, Inc., and Double D Farms.

In addition to those commitments, Mr. Wood has assumed leadership roles in several industry organizations including a member of the board of directors of Cattle-Fax, chairman of the Beef Committee and chairman of the National Meat Association's predecessor, the Western States Meat Association. He has sought other leadership opportunities including, serving as: Chairman of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board, chairman of the California Beef Council, executive committees of the California Cattlemen Association and United States Export Federation.

Mr. Wood's legacy of good stewardship and constant regard for upholding the industry's high standards has led him to receive several awards that recognize those efforts, including the Cattle Business of the Century Award from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association En-

vironmental Stewardship Award. Mr. Wood was also the recipient of the 2003 Vision Award from the National Cattlemen's Foundation, a prestigious award given to individuals whose creativity and imagination inspire others and improve the world around them.

On a personal level, he is a caring and loving father of David, who works with his father on the cattle ranch and is his pride and joy. Dave Wood is a gentleman who cares about his Country, his work and most importantly the friendships of life. Every day he tries to make a difference.

It is with great pride and honor that I join Mr. Wood's family, friends and colleagues in commending his hard work and applaud his recognition as the recipient of the E. Floyd Forbes Award. Mr. Wood's passion and commitment make him a most deserving recipient of this award and a true pillar of this industry.

HONORING AXEL CARL HANSEN, M.D., DHL

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, to be young, gifted, and Black during the first quarter of the 20th century presented unique and overwhelming challenges that not many African Americans could transcend. Among those who did was the distinguished physician, Dr. Axel Carl Hansen.

He has been a recognized researcher, scholar and expert in the field of ophthalmology for over 50 years. The combination of his unique commitment to human egalitarianism and equal educational opportunities for African Americans interested in ophthalmology has been a perennial beacon of light to those entering and those within the profession.

Dr. Hansen was born in my district, on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on March 4, 1919, and received his elementary education in the private schools of the island. His college-preparatory training was obtained at the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, from where he graduated in June 1937. His leadership and scholastic skill were evident early in life. In his senior year in high school, he was president of his class, editor of the school's weekly newspaper, *The Reflector*, and editor of his class yearbook, *The Last Carb*. A member of the Quill and Scroll Journalist Society, he received the national society's "honorable mention" for a news article he wrote and published in *The Reflector* and won first prize from the Virgin Islands Daily News for an essay, "Nature's Masterpiece", which appeared in the initial issue of *The Virgin Islands Magazine*. He was one of two members of his graduating class to receive the honor society's Forum Award for outstanding accomplishments.

In the fall of 1937, Axel Hansen left the Virgin Islands to attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated with a baccalaureate degree. He received his M.D. degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville in March 1944 and pursued internship and 1 year residency at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis in ophthalmology and otolaryngology.

Dr. Hansen, following that post-graduate training, was recruited by Dr. Charles Drew, the famous African American pioneer of blood storage, to return to St. Croix, Virgin Islands and assist in the delivery of medical care. As a municipal physician and general practitioner there, one of his responsibilities was the medical care of patients with leprosy. He modernized the treatment of that disease in the Virgin Islands by substituting the new sulfone drugs for the long used, but less effective, chaulmoogra oil.

Returning to the United States in 1946 to further his training in diseases and surgery of the eyes, ears, nose, and throat, Dr. Hansen spent 2 years at Meharry Medical College's George W. Hubbard Hospital. The year 1948–1949 was devoted to advanced training in the specialty at Provident Hospital in Chicago and the University of Chicago. Upon completion of his training he returned to Meharry Medical College as a full time instructor and he began a private practice.

Later, during a 3-year sojourn in the Virgin Islands, he served a year as president of the medical staff at the Knud-Hansen Memorial Hospital, and was the founder and first secretary of the U.S. Virgin Islands Medical Society.

In 1960, Dr. Hansen was appointed Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology at Meharry Medical College and rose to the rank of Professor and head of the Department of Ophthalmology. He also served as medical director of the College's Hubbard Hospital for 6 years.

In 1968, he reported the first two cases of Norrie's Disease—a rare eye disease—in the United States, and has published several medical articles on that and other subjects.

His creativity has not been limited to medicine. Dr. Hansen also published a self-illustrated book of original poems, and a book, *From These Shores*, which consists of biographical profiles of influential individuals from the Danish West Indies.

The physician became the first African-American ophthalmologist to be certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology in the State of Tennessee. He is a Diplomat of that Board, a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is also a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Among his many citations are the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Fisk University.

In 1987, he was the commencement speaker at his alma mater, Charlotte Amalie High School, from which he had graduated 50 years earlier.

Dr. Hansen retired from Meharry in 1985 as a Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus. In 1996, the American Academy of Ophthalmology awarded him the Academy's Outstanding Humanitarian Award, the second African American to receive that honor.

Today, Dr. Hansen is retired and living in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring this esteemed physician, educator, author and humanitarian.

HONORING THE HURLEY AUXILIARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of a remarkable group of women and men in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, the Hurley Medical Center Auxiliary. On February 21, they will celebrate their 50th anniversary by holding a luncheon for the members and local dignitaries.

First organized on February 15, 1956, over 100 women attended the first membership meeting. In October 1959, the membership amended the constitution to allow men to join the organization. Currently there are 200 members donating 40,000 volunteer hours to Hurley Medical Center annually in 14 service areas.

Since its inception the Hurley Auxiliary has raised and given \$3.2 million dollars for Medical Center programs. Especially important to the auxiliary members is the care provided to children. During the 1950s they conducted the "Wish a Child Well" wishing well fundraisers and today the group is a significant donor to the Children's Miracle Network. The Auxiliary has generously supported pediatric programs and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Because of the Auxiliary membership's commitment to serving all patients, they have also raised money to purchase vans for Hurley's Senior Services. The vans allow seniors to have door-to-door transportation for doctor's visits. The vans are handicapped accessible and were paid by the Auxiliary through fundraisers, the gift shop and hospitality carts.

The Hurley Auxiliary has also contributed to the Michigan Association of Hospital Auxiliaries. Five Hurley members have served as president of the East Central District and two members have been president of the Michigan Association of Hospital Auxiliaries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Hurley Auxiliary for 50 years of dedicated service to Hurley Medical Center and working to provide the best available medical care for its patients.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SUDHIR PARIKH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman JOE CROWLEY (NY) and myself, I rise today to congratulate a Dr. Sudhir Parikh, a prominent Indian-American physician, activist and philanthropist, who was selected earlier this year to receive the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for 2006, the highest civilian honor bestowed by India on non-resident Indians.

Every year, the Government of India nominates extremely worthy and valuable members of the non-resident community for this award who have made a difference to global well-being. It is clear that Dr. Parikh was chosen on his strong credentials.

Dr. Sudhir Parikh, who migrated to the United States in the late 1970s and is a re-

puted allergist in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, has made a significant difference in U.S.-India relations in the past several years. Dr. Parikh is a former president of the nationally recognized American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, as well as a former president of the Indian American Forum for Political Education. He used these prominent organizations to promote Indian-American issues in Congress and to raise awareness within the Indian community. Today, he serves as president to the Federation of Indian Associations, continuing his critical role in bringing our two countries together.

He has contributed more than \$2 million individually to various causes from cancer research to tsunami relief and rehabilitation of earthquake victims in Gujarat. Besides his individual efforts, Dr. Parikh also joined with organizations like the American Indian Foundation, Share & Care, the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation and the Art of Living Foundation to raise funds.

As members of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, we are pleased to have a friend like Sudhir, who has helped tremendously in building the membership of the Caucus and helped set up a new caucus in the U.S. Senate. He is a tireless advocate for the Indian community's interests and the global interests of India.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Parikh is an asset to the Indian American community and his efforts are deserving of this great award. Sudhir fully embodies the commitment and values that the NRI Award represents.

TRIBUTE TO SANDY GERMANY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sandy Germany, National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Ms. Germany is being honored for her commitment and dedication to veterans all over our country who have served with bravery and honor in our Nation's conflicts. As a Life Member of Kiehler-Pippen Auxiliary #5658, her involvement hits close to home with her own father, Pete Frauenhoffer, who served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, her brother, Ronald, who served two tours in Vietnam in the United States Air Force and her son, Curtis, who has been in the military since 1986 serving in the U.S. Army in Korea and recently in Iraq.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is dedicated to the principle of freedom for all people around the world. The organization's plans for 2005–2006 include helping veterans and their families by caring for their children at the VFW National Home for Children, providing special assistance through the Rehabilitation Program, volunteering in VA Medical Centers, sending care packages to the troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Qatar, and teaching young people about the responsibilities of citizenship.

Ms. Germany was elected and installed as National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United

States at its 92nd National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 25, 2005.

She has served in many positions for the organization, including Auxiliary President. As District and State President, she earned Runner-Up Outstanding President of the Year. She also served as National Junior Girls Units Director, as National District Council Member #8, and eight years as State Secretary.

Ms. Germany is also a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sandy Germany, a woman who has dedicated herself to all veterans, our community and the State of Michigan.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, an international internship program that was highlighted in a Roll Call article last week. I have been a proud participant in the program since its inception seven years ago.

The Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program gives Australian university students the opportunity to intern in the office of a Member of the Congress. Each year, 12 students from all across Australia are selected to come to Washington to participate in the administrative and legislative processes that underpin the functioning of Congress as a democratic institution. Such experiences are invaluable opportunities for these students to gain knowledge and a deep understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government while bringing their own skills and backgrounds to their respective Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program selects undergraduates from 7 universities by matching the applicants with Members and Senators who share their views. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have an interest in learning about and promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. The Program facilitates this by enabling the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I have often enjoyed the interaction that has occurred between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come.

My office is currently hosting Sarah Dillon who is completing a double degree in law and international studies at Deakin University. She has been an exceptional addition to my staff and has provided us with an international perspective on constitutional governments, a passion for relieving suffering in Darfur, and the culinary delights of vegemite.

Sarah is participating with 11 other very qualified students. Andrew Brookes from Melbourne University is in Senator CHRISTOPHER

DODD's office; Ryan Conroy from Deakin University is in Representative SAM FARR's office; Jenna Davey-Burns from Melbourne University is in Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER's office; Douglas Ferguson from the University of Canberra is in Senator DEBBIE STABENOW's office; Jessica Gurevich from Melbourne University is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office; Scott Ivey from the University of Western Australia is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office; Saul Lazar from Deakin University is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office; Abbie McPhie from Melbourne University is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office; Linda Nelson from the University of Wollongong is with the House Science Committee's majority staff; Marianna O'Gorman, from the University of Queensland is in Delegate ENI FALEOMAVAEGA's office; and Rachel Thomson from the University of Western Australia is with the Joint Economic Committee's minority staff.

I would also like to commend Eric Federling who founded and continues to direct this international internship program. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of more than a dozen years, and I congratulate him on making his vision a reality. In the process, Eric continues to make a great contribution to the mutual understanding and appreciation shared by Australians and Americans, myself included.

I am proud that my office is part of this program, as I believe it provides a unique and important bridge between the United States of America and Australia. The program has been, and will continue to be, an extremely beneficial experience for all involved. I implore my colleagues to participate in this worthwhile program in the coming years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to honor America's Catholic elementary and secondary schools and to recognize Catholic Schools Week.

America's Catholic schools provide a well-rounded education to the millions of children who attend them. More than 27 percent of the students are from minority groups and nearly 14 percent are non-Catholics. With a strong tradition of social justice, Catholic schools combine strong academic rigor and moral development to prepare young people for life. Graduates of Catholic schools go on to make valuable contributions to our communities through their work, further education, and civic activities. It is important that we take this time to acknowledge the important role that Catholic schools play in educating students and supporting the communities in which they exist.

The Catholic tradition continues to acknowledge the importance of reaching out to the most vulnerable in our society and Catholic schools follow that lead by incorporating moral development, civic engagement, and service learning in their curriculum. In this time of difficult decisions and budget priorities, the Catholic community reminds us of our commit-

ment to all members of our society, especially the most vulnerable.

I am very proud to honor the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools all across the Nation for their vital contributions to the education of children and young people. Attending an all-day Catholic kindergarten gave me a strong start in my own life. Later, while attending the College of St. Catherine, I had the opportunity to student teach at St. Luke's Catholic School in St. Paul and saw teachers who worked so hard to enrich students' lives through academics and spiritual development.

It is with gratitude for their commitment and efforts that I rise to thank Catholic schools, teachers, parents, and students for their valuable contributions to our Nation.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE USO TO OUR ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 322, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our service men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.

I commend my colleagues Mr. MILLER and Mr. REYES for giving us this opportunity to express our appreciation to the USO for the service they provide to our country through their work with our military forces throughout the world.

I believe the United Service Organizations, USO, is best known to the public for bringing in diverse celebrity musicians, comedians and actors to entertain and to boost the morale of our troops around the world, including such familiar names as Wayne Newton, Robin Williams, actor Gary Sinise, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, and even including a son of my own district, Dwayne Johnson—the Rock.

What is less widely known is the existence of other important programs and services the USO has developed to support our troops, such as family crisis counseling; housing assistance; airport service centers; libraries and reading rooms; telephone, internet, and e-mail capabilities; support groups for families separated by deployments; and USO centers—on- and off-base—to provide relaxing and wholesome recreational activities to our service members and their families. In fact, the USO currently operates more than 120 centers around the world, including centers in Germany, Italy, France, Bahrain, Bosnia, Japan, Qatar, and Kuwait.

I note that the USO is a private, nonprofit organization relying on donations from private citizens, organizations and corporations to support their mission. The USO credits its success in large part to the services of more than 12,000 volunteers, who provide some 450,000 hours of service annually to support our troops.

I am a proud supporter of our military troops and a proud member of the USO Congressional Caucus. In my opinion, the work the USO has been doing for the past 65 years is

vital to the morale and welfare of our men and women in the Armed Forces. For this reason, I am honored to have this opportunity to speak in support of H. Con. Res. 322 and recognize the USO for their invaluable contributions to the success of our U.S. military.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 322.

IN GRATITUDE TO MR. JESUS
SALAS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments and contributions of a leader in the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Jesus Salas retired in December 2005, concluding an 18-year teaching career at Milwaukee Area Technical College, MATC. Though his teaching career has ended, he will no doubt continue his life's work advancing the cause of civil rights and justice.

A noted pioneer in the fight for civil rights, Mr. Salas participated in a series of landmark actions in the 1960s. Together with Father Groppi, Mr. Salas helped organize the Welfare Rights March in downtown Milwaukee, and was a leader in the landmark march from Milwaukee to the State capitol in Madison. He was part of a multi-racial group of civil rights leaders who together protested segregated housing, pushed for greater worker protections and demanded greater access to education for people of color.

Mr. Salas has exhibited a profound commitment to the rights of migrant workers. He pushed for enforcement of laws that would protect migrant workers from exploitative conditions, including low wages, unhealthy working conditions and poor housing. As the founder of Obreros Unidos, Mr. Salas led the first sustained effort at unionizing migrant workers in the Great Lakes region, and he served as the first Hispanic executive director of United Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc.

Furthermore, Mr. Salas is a staunch advocate for education. He fought to improve access to college education for Hispanic youth, while also demanding that educational institutions provide curricula that reflect the history and accomplishments of the Hispanic community. As a result of his efforts, the University of Wisconsin-Madison created a Chicano studies program, the Milwaukee Area Technical College instituted a bilingual education program, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee created the Spanish Speaking Outreach Institute—now the Roberto Hernandez Center—to recruit, advise and support Hispanic students. Generations of Hispanic leaders to come will be able to thank Mr. Salas for working to ensure the increased educational opportunities they will enjoy.

I know Mr. Salas will continue to identify and advocate for educational innovations in his role as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. Along with members of the Fourth Congressional District's Hispanic community, I extend to him my heartfelt congratulations and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING VICE ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN FOR HIS NOMINATION TO COAST GUARD COMMANDANT POST

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and I would ask that you join us today in congratulating Vice Admiral Thad Allen in his nomination for the post of Commandant.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 the United States of America experienced the greatest terrorist attack to ever reach U.S. soil. We were not prepared for such a horrific event, as we never imagined terrorists would take such drastic measures.

While we've always been a strong nation with resilient leaders, the post 9-11 world we live in has taught the American citizens that we must be prepared for the unknown. The people who lead this country must be amongst the elite. It has been challenging to restore the confidence Americans have in their leaders since that attack. As elected officials it has been our duty and privilege to protect and uphold the safety and the ideals of our citizens. We must be diligent in choosing people to manage this Country.

The White House announced that the Coast Guard's Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Thad Allen was nominated for the Commandant Post. At this time, we ask that our colleagues join with us in congratulating him on this nomination.

Vice Admiral Thad Allen is known for his loyalty, hard work, and dedication to his post. The American people can be proud to have this man working for them. He first showed his distinct leadership skills as he led Atlantic services in the Coast Guard's reaction to the September 11th attacks. Then, just last year we watched with anticipation as he replaced FEMA Director, Michael Brown. His strength as a leader changed the dynamic of the relief efforts, helping to ensure our citizens received the assistance they sought.

Vice Admiral Thad Allen restored the faith the American people so desperately needed in a leader. Without a doubt, he is revered for his work after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. We are confident he will not disappoint with the Commandant Post. He has served as the Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer at the G.G. Headquarters, Commander of Atlantic Area, and Commander of the Fifth and Seventh Coast Guard Districts.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that you join with us today in congratulations to Vice Admiral Thad Allen for his nomination to the Commandant Post. A man of his caliber is truly an inspiration.

RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE FRANK L. OLIVER OF 195TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pennsylvania State Representative Frank L. Oliver, for his outstanding service and invaluable dedication to the people of the 195th Legislative District of the State of Pennsylvania.

Representative Oliver, a lifelong Philadelphian, began his tenure in the State House in 1973. He serves on the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, the Democratic Policy Committee, and most notably, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, a post he has held since 1995. As Chairman, he has overseen proposed regulations of the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Public Welfare, and the Healthcare Cost Containment Council.

Most recently, Mr. Oliver recommended a study on ways to improve urban public health, specifically investigating the lack of supermarkets in urban areas. Within months of the study's completion, the General Assembly passed, and Governor Rendell signed into law, an economic stimulus package that will provide financial assistance to urban and rural supermarkets in underserved areas. Pennsylvania is the first state to create a statewide supermarket-directed development program of this kind.

Also notable in his legislative career is Mr. Oliver's "Healthier Women Today for a Better Tomorrow" initiative. The plan calls for expansion of family leave, strengthening of domestic violence laws, funding for community outreach to at-risk families with young children, and providing access to treatment options for breast and cervical cancer.

Representative Oliver's extensive legislative accomplishments are a testament to his unwavering commitment to the causes of the residents of the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania. For that reason I am proud to recognize his accomplishments here in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church on the occasion of its 100th year.

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church has been a vital partner of the city of Foley and the state of Alabama. The church was founded in 1906, and for a century, this congregation has been worshipping God and serving the people of south Alabama.

The congregation of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church has used its resources

and opportunities to provide hope, comfort, instruction, and inspiration to so many along the Gulf Coast. Over the past two years, this parish has responded to the needs of the victims of Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, including providing temporary housing, utilities and food for six evacuated families.

St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church has lovingly served the people of Foley through its contributions to Catholic Social Services for Baldwin County, Relay for Life, and Foley Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is my sincere hope that the St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church will continue to be such a source of inspiration, hope, and comfort to the people of Foley for another 100 years, and I rise today to salute this congregation and the many contributions they have made toward the betterment of south Alabama.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 due to urgent personal matters I missed Rollcall votes Nos. 8 and 9. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 322 and S. 1989.

CONGRATULATING MR. GARY
DENICK ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Gary Denick on the occasion of his retirement after serving the U.S. House of Representatives for 28 years.

Mr. Denick joined the production staff of the House Recording Studio as a camera operator in 1978. He rose to production director and became director in 2002. Mr. Denick was even part of the history making crew that provided the first floor coverage of House proceedings.

Mr. Denick began his career in 1972 as a soldier in the U.S. Army after graduating from Miami University of Ohio. He was trained as a television specialist, served a tour of duty in the Republic of Korea and was honorably discharged in 1975. Over the course of his nearly three decades with the House Recording Studio, countless members and their staffs have come to know Gary and call him a friend, me included.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout this body. I know Mr. Denick's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the House Recording Studio and the U.S. House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAN
HORNAK ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Dan Hornak on the occasion of his retirement after serving the U.S. House of Representatives for 20 years.

From an elementary school teacher, to a sheriff's deputy, to a television news cameraman, there is not much that Dan Hornak has not tried. He joined the House Recording Studio staff in 1986 as a camera operator and rose to the position of television director. Over the course of his two decades with the House Recording Studio, countless members and their staffs have come to know Dan and call him a friend, me included.

In the midst of his professional schedule, Dan also found time to discover, restore, and return a stolen oil portrait to Italy. Among his many goals for retirement, Dan includes writing a book about returning this stolen portrait.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout this body. I know Mr. Hornak's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the House Recording Studio and the U.S. House of Representatives.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 28

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219.

SH-216

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Indian gaming activities.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine USF contribution.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2007 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine USF distribution.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Reclamation Reuse and Recycling Program (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575).

SD-366

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Resources to examine the settlement of Cobell v. Norton.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the state of the economies and fiscal affairs in the Territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

SD-366

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Library of Congress, Open World Leadership Council, and Government Accountability Office.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine winter storms.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of the Forest Service and other Federal agencies in protecting the health and welfare of foreign guest workers carrying out tree planting and other service contracts on National Health System lands, and to consider related Forest Service guidance and contract modifications issued in recent weeks.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act relating to fighting the AIDS epidemic of today.

SD-430

MARCH 2

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine voice over Internet protocol.

SD-562

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine rural telecom.

SD-562

2:45 p.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the nuclear weapons and defense environmental cleanup activities of the Department of Energy in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years nuclear security program.

SR-232A

MARCH 8

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense quadrennial defense review; to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.

SH-216

MARCH 9

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine aviation security and the Transportation Security Administration.

SD-562

MARCH 13

3 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold a closed briefing on an update from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

SR-222

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine wireless issues spectrum reform.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Wall Street perspective on telecom.

SD-106

MARCH 15

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Secretary of the Senate, Architect of the Capitol, and the Capitol Visitor Center.

SD-138

MARCH 16

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards.

SD-562

MARCH 28

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration budget and the long term viability of the Aviation Trust Fund.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine offshore aquaculture.

SD-562

MARCH 30

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Disaster Prevention and Prediction Sub-
committee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine
National Polar-Orbiting Operational
Environmental Satellite System.

SD-562

APRIL 4

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal
Aviation Administration funding op-
tions.

SD-562

APRIL 5

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for
the Sergeant at Arms and U.S. Capitol
Police Board.

SD-138

APRIL 26

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the
progress of construction on the Capitol
Visitor Center.

SD-138

MAY 3

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for
the Government Printing Office, Con-
gressional Budget Office, and Office of
Compliance.

SD-138

MAY 24

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the
progress of construction on the Capitol
Visitor Center.

SD-138